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GROUP 1
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NO FOREIGN DISSEM

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SECRET

8 20 3 0 Z CITE [redacted]

DIST 8 MARCH 1968

COUNTRY: GUATEMALA/MEXICO

DOI : 3 MARCH 1968

EO 12958
3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

SUBJECT: PLANS OF THE MELVILLE BROTHERS' GROUP FOR REVOLUTIONARY ACTION AGAINST THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT, AS RELATED BY AN ADHERENT OF THE GROUP

ACQ : [redacted]

EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs
(C)

SOURCE : [redacted]

1. [redacted] COMMENT: [redacted] FOR EARLIER RELATED INFORMATION ON THOMAS AND ARTHUR MELVILLE, U.S. CITIZENS AND FORMER MARYKNOLL PRIESTS IN GUATEMALA, WHO WERE EXPELLED FROM THEIR RELIGIOUS ORDER AND HAVE ORGANIZED A REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT CONSISTING TO DATE OF STUDENTS.)

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(C)

~~SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: SEP 2001

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(C)

[redacted]

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2. JUAN LOJO ROMERO, FORMER MEMBER OF THE GUATEMALAN REBEL ARMED FORCES (FAR) WHO IS NOW CONNECTED WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY GROUP FORMED BY THOMAS AND ARTHUR MELVILLE, FORMER MARYKNOLL PRIESTS, STATED THE FOLLOWING [redacted]

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3. THE MELVILLE GROUP HAD ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED ENTERING GUATEMALA IN EARLY APRIL 1968 TO INITIATE ITS REVOLUTIONARY ACTION AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT, BUT NOW IT HAS DECIDED TO WAIT UNTIL MID-MAY. PART OF THE DELAY IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE LACK OF ORGANIZATION, ARMS, AND FUNDS, AND PART TO A WEATHER FACTOR. THE RAINY SEASON IN GUATEMALA BEGINS IN MAY AND CONTINUES THROUGH NOVEMBER, DURING WHICH TIME THE GUATEMALAN ARMY STAYS IN THE BARRACKS. THIS CURTAILMENT OF ACTIVITY WILL GIVE THE MELVILLE GROUP TIME TO ESTABLISH ITSELF FIRMLY IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUEHUETENANGO AND TO PREPARE TO ENCOUNTER THE GUATEMALAN ARMY IN NOVEMBER WHEN THE RAINY SEASON ENDS. THE MELVILLE GROUP DOES NOT WANT CLASHES WITH THE ARMY BUT WILL FIGHT IF NECESSARY. THE OVER-ALL PLAN IS TO RECRUIT THE ENTIRE INDIAN POPULATION IN HUEHUETENANGO AND "TAKE OVER" THE DEPARTMENT. ONCE THIS IS ACCOMPLISHED, THE MELVILLE GROUP PLANS TO ASK THE GUATEMALAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PGT) AND THE FAR TO JOIN FORCES IN THE FORMA-

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[redacted]

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(classification) (dissem controls)

TION OF A "NATIONAL UNITED FRONT," WHICH WILL ATTEMPT TO FORCE THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT TO RESIGN. A NEW GOVERNMENT WILL THEN BE FORMED BY THE "NATIONAL UNITED FRONT." THERE WILL BE AN EXPLICIT UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE MELVILLE GROUP AND THE PGT AND THE FAR THAT THE FRONT WILL BE A NATIONAL ONE AND NOT ONE CONTROLLED BY THE SOVIETS, THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS, OR THE CUBANS.

4. IN EARLY OCTOBER 1968, AFTER HAVING GAINED A FOOTHOLD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HUEHUETENANGO, THE MELVILLE BROTHERS PLAN TO ISSUE A DECLARATION ON THEIR REASON FOR BEING IN GUATEMALA. THE PRESENT PLAN IS TO WRITE A DOCUMENT WHICH WILL BE SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP AND WILL BE BROADCAST VIA SHORTWAVE IN THE UNITED STATES. ONE OF THE MELVILLE BROTHERS WILL READ THE DECLARATION, WHICH IN ESSENCE WILL BE A CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES' GOVERNMENT, AS BEING COMPLETELY AT FAULT FOR THE PROBLEMS BESETTING GUATEMALA, SUCH AS EXPLOITATION BY THE UNITED FRUIT COMPANY. THE MELVILLE BROTHERS WILL STATE THAT THEY ARE IN GUATEMALA FOR THE PURPOSE OF CHALLENGING THE UNITED STATES AND ITS PUPPET GOVERNMENTS. THEY HAVE CHOSEN OCTOBER AS THE TIME TO MAKE THE DECLARATION BECAUSE IT IS ONLY ONE MONTH BEFORE

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THE U.S. ELECTIONS.

5. MONETARY SUPPORT FOR THE REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT IS CURRENTLY BEING RAISED BY THOMAS MELVILLE IN THE UNITED STATES AND BY THREE PRIESTS AND TWO NUNS OF THE MARYKNOLL ORDER IN GUATEMALA. [redacted] COMMENT: LOJO DID NOT GIVE DETAILS AS TO HOW THE LATTER PERSONS ARE ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN THIS FINANCIAL SUPPORT.) EO 12958 3.4(b)(1)>25Yrs (C)

6. [redacted] DISSEM: STATE ARMY NAVY AIR CINCSO CINCLANT [redacted]

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